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# The Feasibility, Semantics, and Scope of Mobile Wireless Device-to-Device Networking

Von der Fakultät für Mathematik, Informatik und Naturwissenschaften  
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## Abstract

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Wireless networking technology, as prevalently realized according to the IEEE 802.11 standard, successfully complements wired access to local networks and the Internet. Current mobile devices, such as smartphones, manifest wireless networking within everyday mobile scenarios and diverse and dynamic device-to-device (D2D) communication contexts that are independent from any network infrastructure, motivating the research directions of Mobile Ad-Hoc, Delay Tolerant, and Opportunistic Networking as well as Ubiquitous Communication. In these directions, D2D communication strives to facilitate mobile applications and therefore requires a technological basis for wireless networking between mobile devices that comprehensively manifests application semantics within the temporal and spatial scope of mobile communication contexts. Indeed, the 802.11 wireless networking capabilities of current mobile devices are, in principle, suited to provide this basis, enabling users to freely instantiate localized and autonomous communication structures.

In spite of this, very few academic approaches achieve the jump to real-world implementations and applications. We attribute this fact to three shortcomings in realizing mobile D2D networking within the wireless communication capabilities of current mobile devices and envisioned communication contexts. First, a lack of support for the 802.11 ad-hoc mode (AM), the traditionally assumed basis for mobile D2D networking, reduces its basic *feasibility* on current mobile devices. Second, the original design of 802.11 as a one-hop extension of wired networks cannot express application *semantics* that enable purposeful discovery of application participants within the sheer number of devices that make up current mobile scenarios. Similarly, the fundamental notion of an Ethernet-like binding of devices in networks in 802.11 cannot enable a comprehensive communication *scope* that makes the ubiquity of wireless devices accessible and available for communication.

This thesis addresses these specific shortcomings and proposes mechanisms that comprehensively enable mobile wireless D2D networking. First, we establish D2D networking in a network design that builds on the ubiquitously supported 802.11 infrastructure mode (IM), mitigating the lack of support for the AM and exposing the performance gains of the IM to mobile wireless networking. Our design affords network connectivity equivalent to the 802.11 AM with significantly fewer devices serving as forwarders and enables energy savings at both forwarding devices and commodity network participants.

Second, we propose a design to build wireless D2D networking around the availability of desired applications and content, mitigating the inability to express interests and semantics in 802.11. Our design exploits the pervasive and unrestricted scope of wireless broadcasts for discovery and subsequently instantiates D2D networking in dedicated 802.11 networks to facilitate high-performance mobile content exchange.

Third, we realize unrestricted ubiquitous wireless networking with all encountered devices in a network-less communication mechanism that exposes the temporal and spatial dynamics, diversity, and scope of wireless contexts to mobile applications. Building on this scope, we propose multiple compelling multimedia use cases that leverage local and immediate communication for direct interaction between mobile and stationary wireless devices.

## Kurzfassung

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Drahtlose Netzwerktechnologie, z.B. dem IEEE 802.11 Standard folgend, ergänzt den drahtgebundenen Zugang zu lokale Netzwerken sowie dem Internet. Mobile Geräte transportieren diese Technologie in alltägliche Szenarien und dynamische Kommunikationskontakte zwischen mobilen Geräten, unabhängig von existierenden Netzwerkinfrastrukturen. Kommunikation in diesen Szenarien bilden die Grundlage für die Forschungsfelder Mobile Ad-Hoc Netzwerke, Verzögerungstolerante Netzwerke und Opportunistische Netzwerke sowie Ubiquitäre Kommunikation. In diesen Feldern dient die direkte Kommunikation zwischen mobilen Geräten der Realisierung mobiler Applikationen und benötigt eine technische Basis die mobile Netzwerke ermöglicht welche die Semantik der jeweiligen Applikation im momentanen zeitlichen und örtlichen Kontext widerspiegelt. Im Prinzip ermöglichen die 802.11-konformen Kommunikationsfähigkeiten mobiler Geräte die Bereitstellung dieser Basis indem sie Benutzer befähigen lokale und autonome Kommunikationsnetzwerke zu erstellen.

Trotz dieser prinzipiellen Fähigkeit werden solche akademischen Ansätze selten in reellen, verfügbaren Applikationen implementiert. Wir begründen diese Tatsache mit drei Unzulänglichkeiten der drahtlosen Kommunikationsfähigkeiten heutiger mobiler Geräte. Zunächst unterstützen heutige Geräte den 802.11 Ad-hoc Modus, die standardisierte Basis für direkte Kommunikation zwischen mobilen Geräten, nicht und reduzieren damit die grundsätzliche *Machbarkeit* solcher Kommunikation. Weiterhin sieht der Entwurf von 802.11 den *Transport von Applikationssemantik*, welche für eine zielerichtete Suche von Anwendungsteilnehmern in der jeweils verfügbaren Anzahl von mobilen Geräten nötig ist, nicht vor. Schlussendlich verhindert die Ethernet-artige Bindung von Geräten zu einem 802.11 Netzwerk *uneingeschränkte Kommunikation* mit allen verfügbaren mobilen Geräten in Reichweite.

Die vorliegende Dissertation adressiert diese Unzulänglichkeiten und stellt umfassende Mechanismen für mobile, direkte Kommunikation zwischen mobilen Geräten vor. Wir stellen zunächst einen Netzwerkentwurf vor welcher auf dem allgegenwärtig unterstützten 802.11 Infrastruktur Modus basiert und die Kompatibilitätsproblematik des 802.11 Ad-hoc Modus umgeht. Weiterhin realisiert unser Entwurf die höhere Leistungsfähigkeit des Infrastruktur Modus in mobilen Netzen, ermöglicht vergleichbare Netzwerkkonnektivität und erlaubt die Einsparung von Energie bei sowohl angepassten als auch unangepassten Netzwerkteilnehmern.

Im Folgenden ermöglichen zwei Ansätze die Instanziierung von drahtlosen Netzwerken basierend auf der Verfügbarkeit und Auffindung von Applikationen und Daten und ergänzen 802.11 somit um eine Möglichkeit Applikationssemantik darzustellen. Unsere Ansätze benutzen die im Prinzip uneingeschränkte Ausbreitung drahtloser Signale zur Suche von Applikationen und Daten und instantiiert darauf folgend 802.11 Netzwerke direkt zwischen den beteiligten Geräten zum Austausch von Daten.

Zu guter Letzt stellen wir einen netzwerklosen Mechanismus vor der uneingeschränkte, generelle Kommunikation zwischen allen Geräten in Reichweite ermöglicht und damit den jeweiligen zeitlichen und örtlichen Kontext mobilen Applikationen zugänglich macht. Wir demonstrieren eine Reihe von Multimedia Anwendungen die auf diesem Kontext aufbauen und lokale Kommunikation für die direkte Interaktion zwischen mobilen Geräten nutzen.

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